Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject

application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) In a client device, a method comprising:

receiving a request for playback of digital audio or video content stored on the device;

determining an allotted playback duration for the device;

determining an elapsed playback duration for the device, the elapsed playback duration

representing an amount of time previously consumed by the device while rendering

digital audio or video content;

determining whether a predetermined relationship between the elapsed playback duration and the

allotted playback duration for the device is satisfied; and

regulating playback of at least the requested digital audio or video content if the predetermined

relationship between the elapsed playback duration and the allotted playback duration for

the device is determined to be satisfied.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the request for playback of digital audio or video

content is received via a user input device.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein determining an elapsed playback duration for

the device further comprises:

determining a current elapsed playback duration for the device;

determining a rendering time representing an amount of time it takes for the digital audio or

video content to be rendered by the client device; and

adding the rendering time to the current elapsed playback duration to obtain a new elapsed

playback duration.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein playback of the requested digital audio or video

content track is denied if it is determined that the relationship between the allotted

playback duration and elapsed playback duration is satisfied.

5 (Currently Amended) ~~he~~ <u>The</u> method of claim 4, further comprising:

facilitating playback of the digital audio content if it is determined that the elapsed playback

duration does not exceed the allotted playback duration.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

indicating to the user at least one of the elapsed playback duration and the allotted playback

duration.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

indicating to the user the elapsed playback duration in relation to the allotted playback duration.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the digital audio or video content is encoded in

accordance with at least one of an advanced audio encoding algorithm, an adaptive multi-

rate encoding algorithm and an MP3 encoding algorithm.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

denying playback of the requested digital audio or video content if the elapsed playback duration

added to a run length associated with the requested content exceeds the allotted playback

duration.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

denying playback of additional digital audio or video content stored on the device in addition to

the requested digital audio or video content if it is determined that the elapsed playback

duration is equal to or exceeds the allotted playback duration.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the allotted playback duration is

determined based upon predetermined rights associated with the device.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the allotted playback duration is determined

based upon data received from the content rights server.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

periodically increasing the allotted playback duration prior to the allotted playback duration

exceeding the elapsed playback duration.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the allotted playback duration is increased

based upon entitlements granted to the user by a service provider.

15. (Original) In a digital content rendering device, a method comprising:

rendering one of a plurality of audio or video content items;

determining an elapsed playback duration for which digital audio or video content has been

      rendered; and

regulating further content rendering by the digital content rendering device if the elapsed

      playback duration satisfies a predetermined relationship with respect to an allotted

      playback duration.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the elapsed playback duration represents by an

      amount of time for which content has been rendered by the digital content rendering

      device.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the elapsed playback duration represents a

      quantity of data processed by the digital content rendering device to render content on the

      device.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein regulating comprises denying further content

      rendering by the digital content rendering device if the elapsed playback duration satisfies

      a predetermined relationship with respect to the allotted playback duration.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the allotted playback duration represents at

      least one of an amount of render time for which content may be rendered on the digital

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content rendering device, and a quantity of data that may be processed by the digital

content rendering device to render content on the device.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

facilitating playback of the digital audio content if it is determined that the elapsed playback

duration does not exceed the amount of render time corresponding to allotted playback

right.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein regulating further content rendering

comprises facilitating content rendering at a reduced level of functionality or quality if

the elapsed playback duration satisfies a predetermined relationship with respect to the

allotted playback right.

22. (Original) In a digital content rendering device, a method comprising:

identifying a playback right associated with the digital content rendering device representing an

allotted measure of digital audio or video content that may be rendered by the digital

content rendering device;

determining whether the allotted measure of content has been rendered by the device; and

preventing further content rendering on the digital content rendering device if it is determined

that the allotted measure of digital audio or video content that may be rendered by the

digital content rendering device has previously been rendered by the device.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the allotted measure of digital audio or video

content that may be rendered represents an amount of time that the digital content

rendering device may render the digital audio or video content.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the playback right associated with the digital

content rendering device is further associated with a user, and wherein the user is denied

playback of any additional content items by the digital content rendering device once it is

determined that the allotted measure of digital audio or video content that may be

rendered by the digital content rendering device has previously been rendered by the

device.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the playback right is determined based upon a

subscription agreement between the user and a content provider.

26. (Original) A digital content rendering apparatus comprising:

a storage medium having stored therein programming instructions designed to enable the

apparatus to

receive a request for playback of digital audio or video content stored on the apparatus,

determine an allotted playback duration for the apparatus,

determine an elapsed playback duration for the apparatus, the elapsed playback duration

representing an amount of time previously consumed by the apparatus while rendering

digital audio or video content,

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determine whether a predetermined relationship between the elapsed playback duration and the

allotted playback duration for the apparatus is satisfied, and

regulate playback of at least the requested digital audio or video content if the predetermined

relationship between the elapsed playback duration and the allotted playback duration for

the apparatus is determined to be satisfied; and

at least one processor coupled with the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

27. (Original) A digital content rendering apparatus comprising:

a storage medium having stored therein programming instructions designed to enable the

apparatus to

render one of a plurality of audio or video content items,

determine an elapsed playback duration for which digital audio or video content has been

rendered, and

regulate further content rendering by the digital content rendering apparatus if the elapsed

playback duration satisfies a predetermined relationship with respect to an allotted

playback duration; and

at least one processor coupled with the storage medium to execute the

programming instructions.

28. (Original) A digital content rendering apparatus comprising:

a storage medium having stored therein programming instructions designed to enable the digital

content rendering apparatus to

identify a playback right associated with the digital content rendering apparatus representing an

allotted measure of digital audio or video content that may be rendered by the digital

content rendering apparatus,

determine whether the allotted measure of content has been rendered by the apparatus, and

prevent further content rendering on the digital content rendering apparatus if it is determined

that the allotted measure of digital audio or video content that may be rendered by the

digital content rendering apparatus has previously been rendered by the apparatus; and

at least one processor coupled with the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

29. (Original) A machine readable medium having stored thereon machine executable

instructions, the execution of which to implement a method comprising:

receiving a request for playback of digital audio or video content stored on the device;

determining an allotted playback duration for the device;

determining an elapsed playback duration for the device, the elapsed playback duration

representing an amount of time previously consumed by the device while rendering

digital audio or video content;

determining whether a predetermined relationship between the elapsed playback duration and the

allotted playback duration for the device is satisfied; and

regulating playback of at least the requested digital audio or video content if the predetermined

relationship between the elapsed playback duration and the allotted playback duration for

the device is determined to be satisfied.

30. (Original) A machine readable medium having stored thereon machine executable

instructions, the execution of which to implement a method comprising:

rendering one of a plurality of audio or video content items;

determining an elapsed playback duration for which digital audio or video content has been

rendered; and

regulating further content rendering by the digital content rendering device if the elapsed

playback duration satisfies a predetermined relationship with respect to an allotted

playback duration.

31. (Original) A machine readable medium having stored thereon machine executable

instructions, the execution of which to implement a method comprising:

identifying a playback right associated with the digital content rendering device representing an

allotted measure of digital audio or video content that may be rendered by the digital

content rendering device;

determining whether the allotted measure of content has been rendered by the device; and

preventing further content rendering on the digital content rendering device if it is

determined that the allotted measure of digital audio or video content that may be rendered by

the digital content rendering device has previously been rendered by the device.